

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected, claims 3-8 were objected to, and claims 9-21 were allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been amended and claim 7 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 was rejected under § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,684,844 issued to Wang et al. (hereinafter “Wang ‘844”). In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claim 7 in independent form by incorporating its limitations into claim 1. As such, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

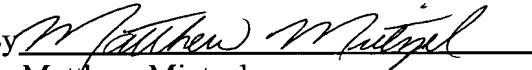
Claim 2 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang ‘844 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,749 issued to Meeks et al. Claim 2 depends on amended claim 1. As such, claim 2 is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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